

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 1 as follows:

First, a blank of plate 3.3 is produced, for example, by casting. The blank is then provided with the named openings. The plate is now attached onto rod-shaped holders (dummies). These dummies have outer diameters that correspond to an average diameter of all filter elements 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3, thus to a statistical mean value. The sealing plate 3.3 is processed on the outside, for example, by turning on a lathe. In this way, the nominal size is produced. Then sealing plate 3.3 is removed from the dummy and attached to a standard filter element. The outer dimension of sealing plate 3.3 is thus not changed at all or is changed only slightly, so that practically there is no deviation from the nominal outer size.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 15 as follows:

The filter element 1.1 shown in Figure 6 has a smaller dimension in its terminal region in comparison with its main part, so that a collar 1.6 is present.